AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (previously presented) A system for providing video communication services to one or more premises, at least one premise including a plurality of video communications-services users, the system comprising:

(a)   a first premises network;

(b)   a plurality of user workstations interconnected by the first premises network, each of said plurality of user workstations having one of at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities, video sink and display capabilities and both at least video and audio capture and reproduction capabilities and video sink and display capabilities; and

(c)   a multimedia central office being in communication with the first premise network and being adapted for coupling to a public digital network, the multimedia central office, in use, transceiving audio, video and digital data signals for providing at least switching functions originating at or destined for at least one user workstation, to and from the first premises network to provide video communications services,

the central office further being coupled to at least one other workstation, not associated with the first premises network, and

the central office being configured to combine captured video images, of at least three users including an image from a workstation in the first premises network and an image from a workstation not in the first premises network, into a mosaic image for reproduction at a workstation of at least one user.

2. (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the mosaic image is a combination of at least one first premises user's image and the image of a user of the other workstation.

3. (original): The system according to claim 1, wherein

the central office is further coupled to a public digital network, the central office in use providing aggregation of demand for telecommunication services to groups of subscribers at different premises.

Claims 4-16 are cancelled

17. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to provide MM mail capabilities among said video communications services.

18. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to accept a plurality of access protocols in said communication with the first premises network.

19. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is in communication with the first premises via unshielded twisted pair wiring operative to carry information using the Ethernet protocol.

20. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to accept a plurality of user video compression protocols.

21. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein said system comprises a plurality of multimedia central offices, and a first multimedia central office and a second multimedia office are interconnected using the public digital network.

22. (previously presented): The system of claim 21 wherein said mosaic image, comprising a plurality of captured video images, may be realized in one or more of said plurality of multimedia central offices.

23. (previously presented): The system of claim 22 further comprising a resource allocation system, operative to provide automatically a designation of which one or more of said plurality of multimedia central offices realizes the mosaic image.

24. (previously presented): The system of claim 23 where the resource allocation system makes said designation based on optimality conditions.

25. (previously presented): The system of claim 24 wherein the optimality conditions take into account which system resources are currently active and which are currently free.

26. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the mosaic image is created using pixel domain techniques.

27. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the mosaic image is created using variable-length code word domain techniques.

28. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the mosaic image is created using DCT domain techniques.

29. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one other workstation is connected to the multimedia central office by wireless links.

30. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising a distributed conference bridge, and wherein the mosaic image is created using said distributed conference bridge.

31. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is also operative to provide video close-ups in addition to the mosaic image.

32. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 further comprising a conference bridge server, wherein the mosaic image is created within said conference bridge server with assignable input cells, output cells, and compositing cells.

33. (previously presented): The system of claim 32 further comprising means for combining the input cells and output cells associated with a same user port into a common entity.

34. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to provide data sharing services to the plurality of user workstations.

35. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to provide application sharing services to the plurality of user workstations.

36. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to provide conference recording services to the plurality of user workstations.

37. (previously presented): The system of claim 36 wherein the multimedia central office provides synchronized audio, video, and graphics in captured and stored during conference recording for later playback.

38. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office is operative to provide a usage monitoring capability.

39. (previously presented): The system of claim 38 wherein the usage monitoring provides information to a billing system.

40. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides directory services to the plurality of user workstations.

41. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one other workstation is a home interactive TV endpoint.

42. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides video on demand services to a plurality of the workstations with which it communicates.

43. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides data visualization services.

44. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides data sonification services.

45. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office comprises information filters, said filters being operative to automatically select video clips to create a user-customized "video newspaper."

46. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides video feeds into videogames.

47. (previously presented): The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office comprises shared codec banks.

48. (previously presented):   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides at least one video communication service using service primitives.

49. (previously presented):   The system of claim 48 wherein the service primitives are designed to support evolvable video communications services.

50. (previously presented):   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides interfacing with third-party service providers.

51. (previously presented):   The system of claim 1 wherein the multimedia central office provides video communications services to a plurality of premises networks.

52. (previously presented):   The system of claim 51 wherein the multimedia central office accepts a plurality of access protocols in connecting with the plurality of premises networks.